

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 AID-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 STR-08 DRC-01 /152 W
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R 122118Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2510

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: APPELATE - YOUNGQUIST LAND EXPROPRIATION CASE

REFERENCE: 1) STATE 047381: A) STATE 46969

1. EMBASSY HAH RECEIVED A COPY OF LETTER SIGNED BY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TO MR. J.A. MORAN, ATTORNEY FOR APPELATE-YOUNGQUIST, IN REPLY TO HIS LETTER TO GOB OF JANUARY 11. GOB REPLY INTER ALIA 1) STATES THE GOB CANNOT BE SUBJECT TO PRESSURES OR THREATS; 2) RENEWS OFFER OF COMPENSATION IN FORM OF LAND; 3) ASKS FOR DOCUMENTATION REGARDING APPELATE-YOUNGQUIST PAYMENT OF TAXES PRIOR TO SEIZURE OF LAND, DEEDS OF TITLE AND APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR APPELATE & YOUNGQUIST, OR ALTERNATIVELY THEIR PRESENCE IN BOLIVIA, IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH GOB ON THE MATTER. ALTHOUGH THE LETTER IS SOMEWHAT BRUSQUE IN TONE, WE DO NOT NECESSARILY CONSIDER IT A STEP BACKWARD SINCE THE DOCUMENTS SOUGHT BY GOB ARE PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER FROM APPELATE & YOUNGQUIST.

2. GOB'S LETTER, OF COURSE, DOES NOT ADVANCE CASE BEYOND WHERE IT STOOD IN DECEMBER 1973 WHEN GOB OFFERED LAND IN COMPENSATION BUT REFUSED TO PAY ANY MONETARY COMPENSATION.

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REFTELS, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT MEMBERS HOUSE AGRICULTURAL

COMMITTEE MAY HAVE IDEA THAT GOB IS TOTALLY INTRAGIGENT ON MATTER WHEN IN POINT OF FACT GOB OFFER OF COMPENSATION IN LAND REPRESENTS CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN GOB POSITION FROM WHAT IT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO. AS REGARDS MORAN'S STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE THAT HE UNAWARE OF ANY "GOOD FAITH EFFORTS BEING MADE TO SETTLE CASE", THIS AT VARIANCE WITH HIS LETTER TO GOB OF JANUARY 11 IN WHICH HE SAYS "OFFER LAND COMPENSATION IS FIRST SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT RECEIVED FROM GOB" AND EMPHASIZES "OUR APPRECIATION" FOR OFFER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED ALSO THAT APPLGATE & YOUNGQUIST WOULD BE FREE TO SELL LAND RECEIVED IN COMPENSATION IF THEY DO NOT CHOOSE TO FARM IT. IF LAND RECEIVED IN COMPENSATION CAN BE SOLD AT A PRICE EQUIVALENT TO THE VALUE OF APPLGATE-YOUNGQUIST PROPERTY AT THE TIME OF TAKING, IS THIS NOT INFACIT THE SAME THING AS MONETARY COMPENSATION? FINALLY, AS FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, NO BOLIVIAN OR FOREIGNER HAS EVER BEEN COMPENSATED IN ANY FORM FOR LANDS EXPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO AGRARIAN REFORM LEGISLATION.

3. IF HOUSE COMMITTEE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING TIGHTENING DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS SUGAR ACT, SECTION 408 (C), WITH POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT INVOCATION AGAINST GOB, WE BELIEVE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE THE FULL PICTURE BEFORE ACTING. TESTIMONY OF LOBBYIST FOR GOB AS REPORTED STATE 046969, DOES NOT STRIKE US AS HAVING GIVEN A COMPLETE PICTURE OF CASE. IF DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO PROVIDE HOUSE COMMITTEE WITH CURRENT STATUS REPORT ON CASE, WE RECOMMEND THAT BOLIVIA'S LOBBYIST BE ADVISED PROMPTLY TO DO SO.

4. WE ARE POUCHING TO ARA/BC COPY OF GOB LETTER OF MARCH 1. STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, LAND NATIONALIZATION, TAXES, ATTORNEYS, PROPERTY TITLES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, LAND REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ01520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740351/aaaabvka.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 1) STATE 047381: A) STATE 46969
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPLEGATE - YOUNGQUIST LAND EXPROPRIATION CASE
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, BL, (APPLEGATE), (YOUNGQUIST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005